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NNNNVV HK0575

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/29 : LOC-HAK-236-6-7-6

O RUEHHAK

DE RUEHDM #2884 08/21/12

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

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CONTROL
TOR:

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08/2111Z

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO RUEHHAK/USDEL ASWAN IMMEDIATE 13

INFO RUEHAY/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 462

RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 535

RUEHBE/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 1482

RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 602

RUEHEM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 415

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2891

BT

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 884

Syria

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SY, PFOR

SUBJ: ASAD PLEDGES JOINT SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN POLITICAL-
MILITARY COMMAND.

1. IN SPEECH DELIVERED MARCH 8 ON TWELFTH ANNIVERSARY OF BA'ATH PARTY ACCESSION TO POWER, PRES ASAD MOVED PALESTINIAN ISSUE FURTHER TO CENTER STAGE BY NEW PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH JOINT SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN POLITICAL AND MILITARY COMMANDS. ASAD STATED THAT HE WAS NOT OFFERING A SPECIFIC FORMULA, BUT HIS IDEA WAS INDICATION OF EXTENT TO WHICH HE WAS PREPARED TO GO IN SUPPORTING PALESTINIAN CAUSE, IF PALESTINIANS SO DESIRED. HE STRESSED POINT THAT JOINT COMMANDS WERE PROPOSED TO EXTEND UNTIL PALESTINIAN RIGHTS WERE SECURED. "WHAT THIS MEANS IS CLEAR - WE ARE READY TO ESTABLISH ONE POLITICAL COMMAND TO LEAD SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN POLICY, AND ONE MILITARY COMMAND TO LEAD SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN ARMED FORCES."

2. IN OTHER PARTS OF SPEECH DEALING WITH THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE, ASAD ASSERTED THAT SYRIA WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO RESIST PRESSURE FROM THE ENEMY AND "THOSE WHO STAND BEHIND HIM." HE ALSO CRITICIZED U.S. ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL, WHICH HAD LED ISRAEL TO IGNORE PEACE. HE MADE REFERENCE TO SYRIA'S MILITARY OPTION -- "THE NATION WHICH FOUGHT IN OCTOBER KNOWS THE ROAD TO ANOTHER OCTOBER" -- BUT EMPHASIZED THAT SYRIA FAVORED A JUST PEACE, WHICH HE DEFINED AS A PEACE WITH NO OCCUPATION OF OTHER'S TERRITORY, NO DISPERSED PEOPLE, AND ONE WHICH SECURES PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. SYRIA, STATED ASAD, WOULD JOIN IN EVERY SINCERE EFFORT TO ACHIEVE PEACE.

3. SPEECH OTHERWISE WAS "STATE OF NATION" TYPE SUMMARY OF BA'ATH LEADERSHIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SPHERES, INCLUDING EXTENDED DISCUSSION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN SYRIA.

MURPHY

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UNCLASSIFIED

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